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JAN 17 2007

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.: 10030634-2 (CHS No.: 2003309-0061)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Pieper, et al.

Examiner:

Venci, David J.

Serial No.:

09/977,358

Group Art Unit:

1641

Filed:

October 16, 2001

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Mail Stop: Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Responsive to the Final Office Action mailed September 12, 2006 in the above-referenced ease, entry of the Amendments presented below, and consideration of the following Remarks is respectfully requested:

Amendments to the Claims is reflected in the Listing of Claims that begins on page 2 of this paper; and

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

Certificate of Facsimile Transmission I haveby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

(1-571-273-8300). January 17, 2007 Date

Signature Ruth Dolan

Typed or Printed Name of person signing certificate

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CHS No.: 2003309-0061

PAGE 2/20 \* RCVD AT 1/17/2007 9:58:15 PM [Eastern Standard Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-5/15 \* DNIS:2738300 \* CSID:16172484000 \* DURATION (mm-ss):04-48